Statement

District-wise Status of Adivasi Villages having Telephone Exchanges and Telephone Connections (As on 31-1-2000)

District	No. of Adivasi villages	No. of villages having exchanges	No. of Adivasi villages having telephone connections.
Ahmednagar	118	7	77
Amravati	344	3	98
Bhandara	284	9	167
Chandrapur	742	10	270
Gadchiroli	1450	17	—
Dhule	997	41	600
Jalgaon	63	2	24
Kalyan	1135	50	500
Nagpur	97	4	54
Manded	185	8	70
Nasik	828	45	500
Pune	144	2	27
Raigad	47	2	41
Yeotmal	528	8	176
TOTAL	6962	208	2604

Telephone Facilities in the Villages of Maharashtra

1245. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages identified or selected for being connected with telecommunication facility in Maharashtra with district-wise details;

(b) whether all of them have been provided with the facility;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when all villages in the State are likely to be provided with telecommunication facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) 42,038 villages have been identified to be connected with telecommunication facility in Maharashtra State. Details are given in statement. (*See* below)

(b) to (d) No, Sir. Out of 42,038 villages in Maharashtra, 31,005 villages have been connected with telecom facility. The target for covering all the villages by telecom facility is end of 9th Plan. The remaining villages will be covered by Private Fixed Service Provider.

Statement

Details of villages with Telecom Facilities in Maharashtra State

SSA	Total Villages	Villages with VPTs	Uncovered Villages
Ahmednagar	1570	1458	112
Akola	1539	1249	290
Amravati	2045	1285	760
Aurangabad	1338	919	419
Beed	1280	922	358
Bhandara	1666	1207	459
Buldhana	1331	1023	308
Chandrapur	1860	1075	785
Dhule	1649	1227	422
Gadchiroli	1694	484	1210
Jalgaon	1510	1414	96
Jalna	966	855	111
Kalyan	1861	1078	783
Kolhapur	1217	1150	67
Latur	955	908	47
Nagpur	1584	1308	276
Nanded	1580	1057	523
Nasik	1843	1458	385
Osmanabad	745	671	74
Parbhani	1542	1192	350
Pune	1937	1101	836
Raigad	1956	1601	355
Ratnagiri	1388	667	721

SSA	Total Villages	Villages with VPTs	Uncovered Villages
Sangli	708	708	0
Satara	1573	1415	158
Sindhudurg	772	536	236
Solapur	1163	1138	25
Wardha	1015	860	155
Yeotmal	1751	1039	712
TOTAL	42038	31005	11033

Provision of public telephones in the villages

1246. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government propose to connect all the villages in the country by public telephone; and

(b) how many of these are proposed to be provided during this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Out of 607, 491 villages, 358, 538 villages have been provided with public telephone facilities till 1st March, 2000. Subject to the availability of resources and achievement of the target fixed for Private Basic Service Providers all the remaining 248,953 villages will be covered gradully by the end of 9th Plan. Department plans to provide 45,000 village public telephones during the year 1999-2000.

Action against postal employees involved in crimes

1247. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a special Court in Jabalpur has awarded a senior postal officer vigorous imprisonment and fine for cheating postal department;

(b) if so, the details of the case; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take against officers and employees who are involved in various crimes viz. late and non-delivery of Money Orders and for cheating of exchequer for lost Vikaspatras/Bonds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, five subordinate postal officials have been awarded Regorous Imprisonment and fine by the Special Judge (CBI), Jabalpur during the period 1998-99, due to their conviction in